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Letter from unknown sender, 1856 June 2

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Recommended Citation

"Letter from unknown sender, 1856 June 2" (1856). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 441.
<https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tgc/441>

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2 June 56
the doctor said I feel
my poor little
body like pins to
sleeve in the world
to support mother
mother & of course
Jane Yates having
your idea of paying
you all a visit. The
doctor thought I
could not leave home
for longer place than
the hospital is living
there now we wait
to see how it like
her very much, she
has had the place
fixed up & very
rich. It is very
rich & had a
very good place
in town that day
which she would
it might have been
difficult. You say
the women had up
floored up to you
if they were here
you might have
had some beautiful
ones such as - all
you might have
kept the whole lot
if you were in return -

you see I have not followed your
example of not answering it so long as you did
mine, however as you say you have so little time for
writing, I will not blame you, we have not heard
from you mother either for a long time, & we won-
dered what could be the cause of your long silence
for we thought if any one was sick, you could write
if sister A could not do so, I was just thinking of
writing to know what was the matter when your letter
came - You say you have no new girl yet, sister A
wrote us you had one, but I suppose she staid only
a short time as usual, it is a pity you could not
get one to suit you, as it must be very fatiguing to
sister Anna & yourself to have to nurse the baby all
the time, tho you are rather better off than cousin
Andrew Pickens wife, as she has to nurse him en-
tirely herself & has no nurse, she spent a day with
us lately, & had to hold the baby all the time
& nearly all night, I felt sorry for her, I
don't think her baby's name would suit sister A
who likes short names, it is called "Mary Jones".

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Bridges Pickens speaking of long names I enclose one
last one of a paper, which beats the name of the
Bridges of Hager son in length, & is very amusing -
We are going to hear Ballou's health is bad again,
I was surprised his Carolina trip would enable him
to get through the summer without his usual attacks,
if he gets up it could not have done him much
good after all, since he complains so much, your uncle
Willie said he required him there to make him study.
Willie was here when I got your letter, & spent some
time with us, but left yesterday for Asheville, he spoke
of returning here again in a month, & I hope he will
then stay the rest of the summer with us for it is
so pretty in Asheville, he complained a great deal while
he was here, & was quite feverish, we did not want him
to go down, we were afraid he would get sick there,
but he was obliged to go, to attend to his business -
Willie said he had not heard a word from any of
your friends Mr. Rice & Ballou left him, & told me to
ask you, why you had all given him up - Tell Mr. Rice
to let me call his place "Bridges Thick", which I believe
is the name he proposed for it. Willie had a very nice
ride after we left, which it is a great convenience,
the spring is so far off - Tell Jimmy Mr. Haynie
has left Willie, he came up here with a wagon of
things for auction, & spent a short time, & then went to
Asheville, where he says he is going to establish a
school after awhile - Tell Jimmy about his old friend

Billy Humming is Willie's overseer now - Your aunt Kate
& the children are here now, & have been for some time
past, they came up from Charleston with Willie, who met
them there, as his father could not come all the
way with her, Kate looks much sadder than when
she was here before, & seems to feel her loss deeply, she has
visited poor Johnny's grave several times, & placed flowers
upon it, she is going to have a marble slab put over
him, & an iron railing around him & buying with a
place for herself to plant flowers - I wish you could see
the dear little children, they are the sweetest I ever
saw, little Johnny resembles his poor father very much,
every one is struck with it, & say it is not necessary
to ask whose child he is, he is so much like him,
he is a very smart & interesting child, but has been a
great deal spoiled, which is a pity, Kate says it was not
her who spoiled him, but his grand parents & aunt who
lives with them, & who gave up to him in everything,
she tries to keep him in order, & say she never will give
up to him - The baby is a sweet little fellow, & much
better than Johnny, he cries very little, he is very fat &
heavy to hold, he tries hard to walk & talk, & can stand
alone, he is cutting his teeth, & has one, his father had
an alligator tooth mounted with silver, with a ring
to put a string through, to wear round his neck, which
is very good for cutting his teeth, I wish little Barbara
had one like it, Kate cannot nurse her baby at all,
& had to bring a wet nurse with her, she brought
mine to, Louisa, who you know, so she last year

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since they have come I go to walk with them ^{evening} every
I had no one to go with me before except when my son-
in-law daughter came to go with me, which was very seldom
Willie had an excellent ambrotype taken of Kate & the
children in town, but it is taken differently from yours,
the glass is separated from the case, & both sides look
exactly alike, & you can see through the glass. The picture
your father painted of the Virgin Mary & child, has been
very much admired, every one thinks it beautiful, one
lady enquired if it was "Mrs. Gleason & her child," which
amused us very much. The baby must be quite changed
in appearance from her eyes & hair turning darker, I was
in hopes her eyes would have continued blue, there are
so many dark eyes in the family, they say sister Marg-
aretta has blue eyes & fair skin, which is quite dif-
ferent from the rest of the family, except Margie, they
have had whooping cough there quite badly. I tell
you Anna that Mr. O'Husking has left Fort. Hall,
I believe his friends sent for him to go back to Germany,
I suppose they will get another teacher for Margie &
Johnny. I tell sister & Maria Pickens engagement is broken
off, Kate saw them in town, they say cousin Francis
never was engaged, but I don't know if it is so. Your
grandmother has been very busy for some time, fixing up
her place, & had half a dozen workmen hired, but
they have all left for the present, she has not half
got through yet, but will have the rest done some other
time, she has had new fencing put all round the yard,
which looks very nicely. She has been having a well dug,
but they have just come to water, yet the pit is quite deep,
they came to rock & had to flash it very often, which has
used us all very much at first we thought it would turn
it up, but it turned out no worse than firing a gun.
I suppose mother with sister & all at home from Helen's death.